

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to the FIGURE. This sheet replaces the original sheet that included the FIGURE.

REMARKS

The FIGURE has been amended to identify communication network 11, specifically as it is referenced in the specification. Claims 2-4, 6 and 9-10 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5 and 7-8 have been amended. Claims 11-13 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 7-8 and 11-13 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1-2. Claims 1-3 and 5 currently stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,946,315 to Ramfelt.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature that the data channel is part of the Media Oriented Systems Transport (“MOST”) network which has a ring topology. It is respectfully submitted that nowhere in Ramfelt is there disclosure of the network being a MOST network having a ring topology. As such, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issuance.

Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 and 5 have been cancelled.

Claim 5

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 5 is now moot, since claim 5 depends directly from amended claim 1, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

3-4. Claims 4 and 6 currently stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter in Ramfelt and in a publication authored by Heck et al. entitled “Media Oriented Synchronous Transfer – A Network Protocol for High Quality, Low Cost Transfer of Synchronous, Asynchronous, and Control Data on Fiber Optic, ” (hereinafter “Heck”).

Claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled.

5. Claims 9 and 10 currently stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter in Ramfelt, Heck and U.S. Published Application 2002/0009091 to Taniguchi (hereinafter “Taniguchi”).

Claims 9-10 have been cancelled.

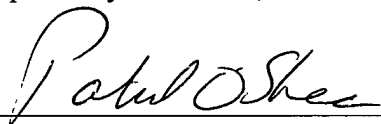
6. Claims 7 and 8 currently stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter in Ramfelt and Taniguchi.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is now moot, since these claims each depend indirectly from amended claim 1, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 5, 7-8 and 11-13 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick J. O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Patrick J. O'Shea

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